



International Boundary and Water Commission  
United States Section  
4171 N. Mesa, Suite C-100  
El Paso, TX 79902

For immediate release  
May 2, 2005

## **USIBWC APPOINTS CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBERS; COMMISSIONER DURAN TO SPEAK AT MAY 12 MEETING**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announces the appointment of board members to the Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF). U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran will address the new board at its May 12 public meeting, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. MST/PDT, City of Yuma Public Works Department Training Room, 155 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Commissioner Duran appointed the following board members:

- Marie Barrett - Citizens' Congressional Task Force on New River/New River Wetlands Outreach Coordinator, El Centro, CA
- James Davey - engineer serving local governments and irrigation districts, Yuma, AZ
- Roger Gingrich - City of Yuma Water Resources Coordinator, Yuma, AZ
- Paul McAleese - International Desalination Association, retired U.S. Bureau of Reclamation engineer, Yuma, AZ
- Brian McNeece - community college instructor, environmentalist, El Centro, CA
- Wade Noble - attorney representing area irrigation districts, Vice Chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the Colorado River Water Users' Association, Yuma, AZ
- Pablo Orozco - Calexico New River Committee Executive Director, Calexico, CA
- Tracy Register - Cocopah Indian Tribe, Environmental Protection Office Director, Somerton, AZ
- Eric M. Reyes - Institute for Socio-Economic Justice, Outreach Coordinator for United Farm Workers, Imperial, CA

USIBWC Yuma Project Manager Al Goff will serve as the agency representative on the board.

Board members will serve a two-year term. The USIBWC appointed new board members to replace those whose terms had expired.

“I look forward to partnering with the new board,” said Commissioner Duran. “They will play a key role in enhancing the Commission’s communication with the community in the Lower Colorado River region.”

The May 12 engagement will mark Commissioner Duran’s first meeting with the Colorado River Citizens’ Forum since being appointed head of the USIBWC by President Bush last year. Prior to his appointment, Duran served as General Manager of the Lower Valley Water District in El Paso County, Texas, an organization responsible for providing potable water, sewer, solid waste, parks and recreation, and flood control services to several communities. He also worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for over nine years managing environmental restoration and waste management programs where he was instrumental in advancing national environmental policies relevant to federal facilities across the nation.

Commissioner Duran has participated in the following leadership positions: U.S. Co-Chair for Health, Environment, and Urban Development between the United States and Mexico; Health and Environmental Advisor for 23 Governors of the West; and Advisor and Facilitator for the Interagency Task Force for Economic Development for the Southwest Border. In 2003, he was appointed to the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America and to the Selection Committee of the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC) of the CEC. He was selected Chairman of the JPAC for 2005.

Also on the agenda, board member and engineer James Davey will present his analysis of flood flows for the Colorado River at Yuma. The Colorado River brings the runoff from seven states and 242,000 square miles through Yuma, Arizona, but with many upstream reservoirs providing flood control and with the arid climate of the Southwest, major flood events on the Colorado River can appear to be quite rare. Davey will compare floods of the Colorado River to those of drainage basins of similar size. Previous studies of flooding on the Colorado River and its tributaries will be reviewed and the protection and risks of the reservoirs upstream of Yuma will be examined. With major portions of the Yuma area, the Imperial Valley, and the Mexicali Valley protected from the Colorado River by levees, Davey will offer a basis for discussing what

level of flood protection should be provided. The Lower Colorado River Flood Control Project was designed to handle a flood of 140,000 cubic feet per second. The USIBWC, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are currently reevaluating the design flood to determine how often a flood of this magnitude is likely to occur and to consider a new design flood for the area.

The CRCF was established in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California. The CRCF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, and other interested parties.

A complete meeting agenda appears below. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at (928) 782-1598 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at (915) 832-4175 or via e-mail at [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).

For more information:

Sally Spener  
(915) 832-4175  
[sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov)

## **COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Thursday, May 12, 2005**

**4:00 - 6:00 P.M. MST/PDT**

**City of Yuma Public Works Department Training Room**

**155 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street (at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.)**

**Yuma, Arizona**

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members - Al Goff, USIBWC Yuma Project Manager, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Vision for the USIBWC - Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran
- Flood Flows for the Colorado River at Yuma - James Davey, PE, Civil Engineer, Davey-Cairo Engineering, Inc.
- Public Comment
- New Board Member Orientation - Sally Spener, USIBWC Public Affairs Officer
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum will be held on August 11 in Imperial County

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 928-782-1598 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).